

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 27 are currently pending in the application, claims 4 through 27 being newly added with this amendment.

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of June 2, 2004.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Obviousness Rejection Based on Ball et al. (U.S. Patent 6,299,049)

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ball et al. (U.S. Patent 6,299,049). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Applicant asserts that the Ball et al. reference is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103 because the present application and the Ball et al. reference, United States Patent 6,299,049, were at the time of the invention of the present application was made, both owned by Micron Technology, Inc.

Applicant requests the rejection of claims 1 through 3 based upon the Ball et al. reference be withdrawn. Therefore, claims 1 through 27 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Objection to Claim 2/Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter. However, since the Ball et al. reference is not prior art to the present application, Applicant asserts that all pending claims are allowable.

In summary, Applicant asserts that claims 1 through 27 are clearly allowable.

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Applicant requests the allowance of claims 1 through 27 and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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James R. Duzan

Registration No. 28,393

Attorney for Applicant(s)

TRASKBRITT

P.O. Box 2550

Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550

Telephone: 801-532-1922

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JRD/ps:djp

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